



**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Vanessa Gulati
617-626-1119**

**STATE HONORS PELHAM MAN FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE
AS PRECIPITATION OBSERVER AT QUABBIN RESERVOIR**

Today, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) honored Sidney P. Stone of Pelham for his 40 years of service as a precipitation observer, measuring rainfall and snowfall at the Quabbin Reservoir for the Commonwealth. Mr. Stone, 89, recently retired from the position, which he had held since 1966.

Jonathan Yeo, Director of DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP), presented the certificate to Mr. Stone. Massachusetts State Climatologist David Taylor, also of DWSP was also on hand to thank Stone for his many years of dedicated service.

"Precipitation monitors play a key role in protecting the Commonwealth's water supply," said Yeo. "The data they provide is essential to the efforts of offices like the Division of Water Supply Protection. Sidney Stone was an extraordinarily dedicated member of this group, and he will be sorely missed."

"Mr. Stone has always been dependable and remarkably thorough," said Taylor. "While people usually focus on liquid precipitation, Sidney paid careful attention to snowfall, which is equally important."

A network of observers operating throughout the state take daily precipitation measurements daily, typically in the morning. Their findings are reported to the DCR Office of Water Resources, and used by a variety of agencies and organizations, to evaluate current water conditions in the state, to track long-term climate patterns, and for a range of engineering and environmental studies. The Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force uses the data to determine whether a drought should be declared.

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Before his retirement in 1982, Stone worked for the former Metropolitan District Commission (a predecessor to DCR) at the Quabbin Reservoir and at MDC's water testing laboratory before his retirement in 1982. Stone and his late wife Helen began making weather observations at their home in Pelham at the request of the MDC, which they continued to do diligently even after he left the agency.

As a result of Mr. Stone's retirement, DCR is looking for a precipitation observer in Pelham that can take measurements daily throughout the year, ideally a meteorology enthusiast. For information on this volunteer opportunity and other precipitation observer positions across the Commonwealth, contact Bruce Hansen at the Division of Water Supply Protection at 617-626-1388.

DCR's rainfall information web page, which includes reports on monthly precipitation and water conditions, can be accessed at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/rainfall/index.htm>.

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